**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

***Listing of Claims:***

1. (original): A method of manufacturing a catalytic converter comprising the steps of:

a) placing a first liner into a second liner, the first liner containing a catalyst;

b) plastically deforming opposing ends of the liners into engagement with one another forming a cavity between the liners; and

c) securing first and second connecting tubes to the opposing ends.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the liners are cylindrical in shape.

3. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein step b) forms a conical flange having portions of the first and second liners overlapping and engaging one another.

4. (original): The method according to claim 3, wherein step c) includes welding the connecting tubes to the flanges of the opposing ends.

5. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein step b) forms a sealed cavity between the first and second liners.

6. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the liners are spaced from one another approximately 0.25 inch or less forming an air gap.

7. (original): The method according to claim 6, wherein the air gap extends circumferentially about the first liner and catalyst.

8. (currently amended): A catalytic converter comprising:

a first liner ~~housing~~ containing a catalyst; ~~and~~

a second liner arranged about the first liner in spaced relationship therewith, wherein a first end of the first liner and a first end of the second liner are plastically deformed together, wherein a second end of the first liner and a second end of the second liner are plastically deformed together, and wherein the plastically deformed ends form ~~forming~~ a sealed cavity and provide a ~~providing an air~~ gap about the circumference of the first liner extending at least a length of the catalyst; and

a connecting tube secured to a conical flange formed of overlapping portions of the first liner and the second liner at an end of the first liner and second liner.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended): The catalytic converter according to claim 8, ~~claim 9, comprising connecting~~ wherein the connecting tube is ~~tubes~~ secured to the conical flange ~~to said opposing ends~~ by one or more weld beads.

11. (currently amended): The catalytic converter according to ~~claim 10~~claim 8, wherein said liners ~~and connecting tubes~~ have a generally ~~cylindrical cross section~~circular cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the catalytic converter.

12. (new): The catalytic converter according to claim 8, wherein the gap is between the first liner and the second liner, and wherein the gap is about 0.25 inch or less.

13. (new): A method of making a catalytic converter, comprising:

placing a first liner into a second liner, the first liner containing a catalyst;

plastically deforming first ends of the liners together by engaging the liners with a first die;

plastically deforming second ends of the liners together by engaging the liners with a second die; and

securing a first connecting tube to a first end of an assembly formed of the first liner and the second liner.

14. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein the first die is configured to move towards the second die, and the wherein the second die is stationary.

15. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein the first die is configured to move towards the second die, and the second die is configured to move towards the first die.

16. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein the liners are substantially cylindrical.

17. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein the first connecting tube has a conic portion.

18. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein plastically deforming the first ends of the liners together forms a conic portion.

19. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein securing the first connecting tube comprises welding the connecting tube to the first end.

20. (new): The method of claim 13, further comprising securing a second connecting tube to a second end of the assembly.

21. (new): The method of claim 13, wherein plastically deforming the opposing ends forms a sealed cavity between the liners.